

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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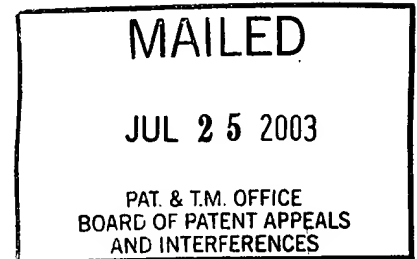
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

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Ex parte DUANE S. DEWALD

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Application No. 09/750,640



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ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

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This application was received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on July 18, 2003. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below.

On June 27, 2003, appellant filed a reply brief (Paper No. 16) in response to the examiner's answer entered April 22, 2003 (Paper No. 15). However, there is no indication on the record whether or not the examiner has responded to the reply brief. Section § 1208.03 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (8<sup>th</sup> ed., Aug. 2001) states:

Application No. 09/750,640

[A]ppellant may file a reply brief as a matter of right within 2 months from the mailing date of the examiner's answer. . . . The primary must then either: (A) acknowledge receipt and entry of the reply brief by using form paragraph 12.47 on form PTOL-90; or (B) reopen prosecution to respond to the reply brief. See MPEP § 1208.02.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that this application be returned to the examiner for: 1) proper response to reply brief; and 2) for such further action as may be appropriate.

Application No. 09/750,640

It is important that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences be informed promptly of any action affecting the status of this appeal (i.e., abandonment, issue, reopening prosecution).

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

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